

SRI N. RACHAIAH:—Sir, I submit that as per my categorical assurance to this House I have implemented my decision. But it is only in the meanwhile it became inevitable in view of the suggestions of the Chief Electoral Officer to postpone the elections.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:—Now I will put the motion to the vote of the House. The question is.

“That the Karnataka Village Panchayats (Postponement of Elections) Bill, 1975 be passed.”

The motion was adopted and the Bill was passed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:—The next Bill will be taken up on some other day. Now I call upon Hon. Member Sri Prabhakar Telkar to raise half-an-hour discussion.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION ARISING OUT OF REPLIES
TO QUESTION NO. 2 ON 13-2-75.

Re: Development of Indian System of Medicines

*SRI PRABHAKAR TELKAR (Kelgi):—Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in reply to my Question No. 2 it was stated that there are on 25 Ayurvedic dispensaries, and 19 Unani dispensaries in the whole of the State. Now what has happened is this Indian System of medicine which is an important system has been given more importance in the foreign countries. There are only 44 dispensaries in the whole of State both Unani and Ayurvedic. Further it was stated that this system is prevalent only in Bangalore, Mysore, Bijapur, Raichur, Bidar and Gulbarga Districts and in the rest of the districts in the State there are no dispensaries of this nature. No steps have been taken by the Government to popularise this system in both urban and rural areas. Government should take steps to popularise and encourage this system in our State. the V Annual Plan for 1974-75 shows that Government has provided funds to open only 37 dispensaries in

rural areas and for opening three hundred bedded hospitals in district levels and to increase the bed strength at Bangalore and Mysore hospitals. Under nature cure it is proposed for opening of 13 dispensaries in rural areas and one Nature Cure College. Under homoeopathy system there are only 12 dispensaries and they programme to open two 25 bedded hospitals in rural areas. The Annual plan also provides for opening of 13 dispensaries under Unani system and one Unani College; In siddha system also it is stated that they are opening a siddha wing of 10 bedded hospitals at Bangalore and Mysore and they want to purchase some machineries and equipments etc. But I don't find any research work being undertaken by Government. I suggest that Government should also devote its attention towards opening of research institutions in the State. This Indian system of medicine is more popular in Europe and other countries of the world but whereas in our country it is no so. I would like to quote the views expressed by a Dutch microbiologist, Dr. T. Meindersma who spent three months at the institute of Medical Sciences in the Banaras Hindu University. He has observed:

"The ideas of Ayurveda are of great value for the whole world." Dr. Meindersma who plans to popularise Ayurveda in Europe in an interview regretted that many Indians seem to be unaware of the great value of Ayurveda. At present, there is one centre in Europe at Zurich which has taken to Ayurvedic treatment for some ailments. At this centre facilities exist for the famous 'navarakizhi' treatment. One more Ayurveda centre is coming up near Frankfurt. Of late, the number of foreigners visiting the institute at Varanasi to learn the fundamentals of Ayurveda has been growing and this is reported to have made the authorities think in terms of organising a regular nine-month course for foreigners.

Dr. Meindersma said that he got interested in Ayurveda during his three-year stay in Tamil Nadu

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from 1962 to 1965 when he was a consulting physician to the Christain Mission Hospital at Madurai. He was keen to learn more about it but lack of literature in English made him decide to visit India again for an on-the-spot study.

Dr. Meindersma said what struck him most about Ayurveda was that unlike modern medicine, it had certain well-founded concepts for treating the patient as a whole. Modern medicine treated the disease but not the cause. Even after so short a study I feel the ideas of Ayurveda are of great value for the whole world."

Therefore my submission to the Government is that this Indian system of medicine should be given more importance and Government should see that more and more hospitals particularly in rural areas are taken up at the earliest.

*SRI SUBHASH ASTHURE (Minister of State for Major Irrigation):--Sir, considering the importance of this Indian system of medicine a committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Melkote was appointed and after receiving its recommendations in this regard only certain steps are taken. In the fifth five year plan about Rs. 1 crore 50 lakhs are provided. In the year 1974-75 we have already spent about Rs. 10 lakhs and in addition to the existing hospitals some new hospitals have been opened. Four new hospitals have been opened in Shivara village, Channarayana, Sirigere in Chitradurga District, Rajanahalli in Kolar District and in Puttanapalya, Bangalore. Apart from these things we have increased the number of beds by 25 in GCIM Medical College hospital; one Unani College has also been started in Bangalore. All preparations have been made but the admissions in the said college will start from next academic year. One Training centre also has been

started in Bangalore. Further in the fifth five year plan, as I have already stated, we are going to spend Rs. 1 crore 50 lakhs and have a number of hospitals. As the Hon. Member mentioned that the Indian system of medicine must have developed a lot in other countries but India being the place of its origin where it has come up even before the advent of modern system of medicine it has not developed here. The suggestions made by Hon. Member will be considered in view of the importance of this system. As far as research is concerned, there are some research centres in other parts of the country. Here at present we have no such programme. But it is a good suggestion and we will certainly consider it. As far as popularising of this system is concerned we are opening some new hospitals and some medicines are also being popularised and if any suggestions are made by the Hon. Member in that behalf that would also be considered. By the end of 1975-76 we have envisaged to spend another 10 lakhs of rupees.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :—The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 8-30 A. M.

The House adjourned at Fifteen Minutes past Six of the clock to meet again at Thirty Minutes past Eight of the clock on Saturday, the 1st March, 1975.